imgur

Holly Conrad - full transcript

atelierheidi

Holly Conrad [redacted]

Nov 9, 2017

Hey Holly! I've started decorating our living room to be a D&D space for Jared. I've taken a lot of inspiration from your dining area but it will be unique of course 😊 I have some cute frames that I wanna fill with drawings of Strix, Diath, & co. Do you have any favorite pieces or fan artists to recommend? I wanna surprise Jared since he's out of town for a few days
5:20 PM

H: Omg that's so awesome!! I'll get a list together for you! I'm sure there's a lot on the #wafflecrew tag on tumblr too! 7:12 PM

Thank you, I'll check there too! Also, idk how often you sell your own art, but I'd love to have something by you to hang in here eventually. I love your monster drawings, but I'm sure that anything D&D-related would be very meaningful to Jared! 7:31 PM

H: Omg I'll just pain you something!!

*paint 7:49 PM

OMG I would love that! I know Jared would too! ❤️ 7:51 PM

H: Yay!! What would he want? A D&D monster? 8:05 PM

H: I'll think of some hah 8:06 PM

I honestly don't know! You know the lore way better than me, so I'm sure anything you come up with will be perfect! Maybe something related to the campaigns you've done together? 8:08 PM

Feb 8, 2018

H: Hey Heidi, I'm so sorry for all the lost sleep and upsetting shit that happened this weekend. I want to apologize in any way I can for any shittyness I brought on you. I get so scared that you hate me because you're so nice and pretty, and I know that's stupid but that's why I was afraid to talk at breakfast and I really should have. I just tried to talk and be a chucklefuck because it's my defense mechanism 4:11 PM

H: And I know Jared has told you everything so you know how fucked up I am LOL 4:12 PM

H: I'm also sorry I didn't say bye, and I hope we can talk more and still be friends 4:15 PM

Hey Holly, I don't know if Jared told you this but probably the only reason you two finally confronted your emotions is that I literally demanded it of him. I approached him earlier that day and insisted that he finally address the tension growing between you two because it was incredibly obvious to me and I was tired of playing dumb/being treated like I'm stupid. I intentionally stayed out of the way, gave you space to let things play out. I've been so open and supportive to Jared about all of this and in return he has lied, denied, and left me hanging for hours without a word of acknowledgement. I literally don't know how I could have been any more accepting, and felt like he spat in the face of that. Every conversation I've had with him about this has been because I brought it up. At breakfast when neither of you could bring yourselves to acknowledge what was going on to me even though we all clearly knew, I thought that was incredibly cowardly of you both. It's not my responsibility to address your actions. I was left feeling like, "if this is how they are treating me in the face of my unwavering support, how could I ever trust them to be straight with me?"
Feb 8, 2018 5:23 PM

Jared knows he has a long way to go to re-earn my trust. If you truly want to be my friend, you'll have to do the same. I'm very glad you finally addressed this with me, because I really needed you to. This is a start. 5:25 PM

H: I'm really sorry Heidi, and you're right it was wrong. I was just so confused because I've never experienced this and I guess I was in a panic. I should have talked to you about it when I was there. 5:26 PM

H: And I'm sorry about going on that walk and forgetting all the phones, that's my fault

I just needed to clear my head 5:27 PM

H: And I'm going to tell Ross everything after Anna's party. I honestly didn't even know what was happening to me because I didn't know what it was 5:29 PM

I'm sorry to include mentions of other people at all, but I felt like the context is necessary here.

H: And I'm so so sorry it stressed you out. 5:30 PM

I know it was an accident that you forgot the phones but it resulted in one of the most emotionally eviscerating experiences I have ever had, and nothing can change that I went through that alone. I'm glad you weren't fucking without telling me, but I haven't been able to shake the raw betrayal I felt then. 5:31 PM

H: I'm really sorry. If there's anything I can do for you please tell me.

All I want is transparency and honesty from you both, and I am going to need a lot more than what either of you has given me so far. 5:34 PM

H: And you're right. I know what's happening now and that's made it a lot easier for me to process. And honestly that's because you had bigger balls than either of us, and I'm just completely lacking in emotional experience. Anything you want to talk about or ask me please do, I'll tell you whatever you need. I mean that too. These feelings came from a place I wasn't even aware existed in me, and I'm just trying to understand 5:37 PM

H: I literally didn't know what any of this shit was until now, and I'm so so sorry it took me so long 5:38 PM

I really appreciate you saying all of this and I don't hate you. I'm only mad about all of the things I just mentioned. I always try to be very straight about my emotions so I hope you can believe that. 5:45 PM

H: And you have a right to be mad. You were being supportive and even if it was an accident your trust was betrayed 5:51 PM

H: I totally understand 5:52 PM

H: I've just never had any of this happen and I'm sorry I wasn't in a better state to be more considerate 5:54 PM

Thank you for apologizing, that means a lot to me. It's true that Jared is allowed to be with other women, but only within certain boundaries that are very important to maintain ongoing trust and respect. I'm not sure how we will balance that out in this situation, but I think Ross' response will probably determine what happens next. I hope your conversation with him goes well and gives you more emotional clarity.

H: Thank you so much, if you have any advice at all I am all down to listen lol. I tried to bring it up to him years ago and he seemed cool with me being with other girls but guys were a maybe. I never brought it up again but I've tried to talk about it in the past, I know he's receptive to it 6:28 PM

H: But yeah I totally understand the boundaries thing, it makes things easier and when it comes to my friends and people I respect all I want to do is maintain those 6:29 PM

Feb 9, 2018

On the evening of February 8, I talked with Jared and asked him firmly to end things with Holly. He did so on February 9, which sparked a phone call where I raised my voice at her.

I'm sorry for yelling at you -- Jared deserves the brunt of my anger, not you. I realize that you were not aware of exactly where the boundaries are because we haven't had time to lay that groundwork. But Jared knew and totally disregarded them, repeatedly. I'm sure he hasn't done a detailed job of communicating to you how deeply he has failed me, so it probably seems like I just suddenly got mad for no reason. That is not the case. I'm angry with him for breaking all of our clearly established rules about how we can interact with other people.

H: I understand heidi, I'm sorry I should have reached out to you too or talked more before any of this happened. My ignorance is no excuse and I want you guys to be happy. 1:54 PM

H: I didn't know your boundaries specifically and I should have asked you both up front, and I've learned a really intense lesson about how I perceive my feelings and that's something I have to deal with 1:58 PM

Yeah, I wish we had gotten to have a full conversation about boundaries before they were repeatedly violated. I want you to know that I was really willing to try...maybe it doesn't seem like it but this has been extremely difficult for me to process emotionally too, and I'm still figuring out entirely how I feel

H: I wish we would have talked about it together, and I'm so sorry if anything I did hurt you. I wouldn't have done any of it if I knew that and I mean it. I had no idea of the boundaries and I am so sincerely sorry I didn't talk to you because I was afraid. 2:26 PM

H: I just thought that Jared knew them and was respecting them. I'm so sorry. 2:27 PM

Yeah, me too. It made me very uncomfortable that you made multiple statements suggesting you felt something for Jared that was more intense or real or important than your feelings for Ross. At first I was hoping that Jared could help you experience something that you were missing, but as things went on it just started to seem like you're completely in love with Jared and he is not available for that kind of relationship. I know feelings and physicality are deeply intertwined and that you guys obviously have an emotional connection, but there was nothing to prevent it from escalating indefinitely as you continue this on-screen "fictional" relationship with infinite potential to take over your emotions IRL. And that scares me, because it's not what I signed up for.
Feb 9, 2018 2:34 PM

Like I said before, I'm not trying to change the plot of DCA or what is happening in-game. I need to change Jared's emotional interaction with it in real life, even though I HATE denying him his fun, but it's getting way too weird and personal and painful for me and I need to admit that before it goes any further.
Feb 9, 2018 2:36 PM

H: Yeah you're right Heidi, and that's something I didn't admit to myself and was too hard to talk about. And I love Ross, I want him to be happy, but I'm not very experienced emotionally or sexually and I need to discuss that with him and what we need to do. He cares about me and I care about him, he'll understand. And I'm very bad at understanding or expressing feelings, so it was just really overwhelming for me. Whatever it was.
Feb 9, 2018 2:39 PM

H: It was a blurred like between fiction and reality and it really got out of control. 2:39 PM

Yeah. I still believe humans can comfortably be poly and that physical monogamy isn't necessary for a strong partnership. I'm still willing to let Jared explore that in our relationship, but all the personal factors have made this particular situation way too volatile. I don't feel safe and secure here. If Jared and I can't have an open relationship rooted in trust, then we shouldn't have one at all, at least right now. If it's causing this much grief, I need to work on my relationship with him first.
Feb 9, 2018 2:45 PM

So yeah I still don't hate you personally, I'm just very hurt by how far this has all escalated without fair disclosure 2:46 PM

H: Yeah I totally understand. I wish I had known and talked to you earlier and I'm sorry I didn't. It was my own ignorance for feelings and total and complete incompetence when it comes to those things. 2:48 PM

H: And I'm sorry about the things I said last night to him, I was just feeling something I shouldn't have articulated without everyone's consent. And I understand now and feel really terrible for even thinking those things. 2:49 PM

H: So again, I'm really really sorry. I hope we can be friends again some day and you can feel happy and secure in your relationship. I really wish you the best sincerely. And thank you for letting us still play our game, that means a lot. 2:56 PM

I was more mad about the things he said to you, but thanks. I was starting to realize that if you and Jared had permission to be together at all, then it would instantly be like you were his girlfriend, because that is the dynamic that you have slowly been developing through role-play for months now. You were already more or less in a relationship, just waiting for approval to call it what it is. And the number one rule he and I set together that we would have no established side relationships, because it's too messy. Much less with someone close to us both.

H: Yeah I totally understand. And I was in complete denial. Like, utter denial. And I'm so sorry. 3:01 PM

Again I think the problem lies in Jared not being willing to see the situation for what it is, because I was observing it all from the outside and it seemed really clear